CLAIMS

1.   A method for generating a programme for presentation to a user such that the presented programme is made up from a sequence of programme elements each of which is a programme clip taken from at least one distributed programme and each of which represents an event, each programme element being classified on the basis of the event represented by the programme element, each programme element being stored with at least one associated programme element classification code, each classification code identifying a class to which the event represented by the associated programme element has been allocated, and a programme being assembled for presentation to the user by selecting at least one programme classification code and generating an assembled programme in the form of a sequence of programme elements associated with the at least one programme classification code, wherein programme elements are classified using a set of event classes including a plurality of subsets of the event classes, classification of each programme element comprises a classification operator making at least one selection from at least one of the subsets, said selection determining at least one of the subsets from which future selections can be made, and the at least one selection generating the classification code associated with the programme element.

2.   A method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of programme elements representing temporally adjacent events are classified by the classification operator, and classifications of temporally earlier events determine the at least one subset of event classes from which the classification operator may make selections.

3.   A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the set of event classes contains classes having hierarchical relationships, and the subsets from which future selections can be made are determined by the hierarchical relationships.

4.   A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the at least one subset from which selections can be made is symbolically displayed to the classification operator.

5.   An apparatus for carrying out the method of any preceding claim.

6.   A computer program for carrying out the method of any one of claims 1 to 4.

7.   A method substantially as hereinbefore described, with reference to the accompanying drawings.

8.   An apparatus substantially as hereinbefore described, with reference to the accompanying drawings.